

FAMILY MANIAML

"The Cat's Out of the Bag"

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DRAFT NAME
First Draft

EXT. DOWN BY THE OLD PEIR - NIGHT TIME

A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR (MARK) IS STAKING OUT DOWN BY THE PIER. HE CAN SEE AN ABANDONED CRATE IN THE DISTANCE. HE GIVES A GOOD LOOK AROUND TO SEE IF THE COAST IS CLEAR.

MARK

(Writing in his notebook) The coast is
clear.

HE GRABS A CROWBAR THAT WAS CONVENIENTLY LAYING AROUND NEAR BY THE ABANDONED CRATE AND HE OPENS IT UP. INSIDE IS A LARGE BAG THAT HAS THE LOOK OF THOSE CROWN ROYAL BAGS. MARK OPENS IT UP AND IT A BUNCH OF STUFFED ANIMAL CATS.

MARK (CONT'D)

(Chuckles to himself) I guess the cats
out of the bag. *(Mark chuckles to
himself again)*

RIGHT THEN HE HEARS A FAMILIAR ROAR COMING FROM ANOTHER CRATE. HE WALKS OVER TO IT WITH THAT CONVENIENT CROW BAR HE FOUND EARLIER. HE POPS OPEN THE CRATE THEN HIS SKIN BEGINS TO BUBBLE, HE'S IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN ALL OF HIS CLOTHES COME OFF AND HE TURNS INTO A PANTHER.

DOROTHY

*(Slowly emerges from the crate,
blinking her eye a lot)* Mark? Is that
you?

MARK

It's me baby.

DOROTHY

(Whimpering) I was so scared.

MARK

I promised myself I would never stop
looking for you and I never did.

DOROTHY

What's a promise?

MARK

It's a declaration assuring that one will or will not do something; a vow.

DOROTHY

Oh. I like that. I was so scared I would never see you again.

MARK

There's no need to be scared now, I'm here. I'll always be here.

DOROTHY

(Hesitant to speak)...Promise?

MARK

I promise.

DOROTHY

Did I use it right?

MARK

Indubitably.

DOROTHY

Good. How long have we been apart?

MARK

I've been searching for you for a month and a half. I never quit baby. I never quit.

DOROTHY JUMPS ON MARK AND STARTS KISSING HIS NECK IN A PASSIONATE BUT STILL RESPECTABLE FOR TV WAY. THE CAMERA PANS UP TO AN EMPTY PIER WITH A RISING SUN. MANIMAL THEME SONG PLAYS.

INT. - INSIDE OF A TAXI CAB - MID AFTERNOON - SAME DAY

MARK WAKES UP DOWN BY THE PIER COMPLETELY NAKED ALL BY HIMSELF. DOROTHY IS NO WHERE TO BE FOUND.

MARK

What? Oh no Where's Dorothy? (*Looks down at his body*) I have got to start bringing some extra clothes!

THERE IS A PIECE OF PAPER LAYING RIGHT BESIDE MARK WITH A PANTHER PAW PRINT ON IT.

MARK (CONT'D)

She must have gone back to the zoo.

Good girl.

JUST THEN A MAN IN A TAXI (JEREMY) IS DRIVING BY THE PIER WHEN HE NOTICES MARK WHO'S ALMOST COMPLETELY NAKED COVERING HIMSELF WITH A BUNCH OF PIZZA BOXES AND A COUPLE OF THOSE STUFFED CATS. JEREMY SLAMS ON THE BREAKS AND ROLLS DOWN THE WINDOW.

JEREMY

(*To Mark*) Rough night I assume?

MARK

(*Sarcastically*) Oh, the mutts nuts!

(*Chuckles to himself*)

JEREMY

Why don't you get in and I'll give you a lift?

MARK

It's okay I can find my own way home myself.

JEREMY

Wait a second! I know you. Yeah! I'm your neighbor. Hop in, my shifts ending I'm going that way anyway.

MARK

(A big sigh) Alright. *(Begrudgingly Mark gets in the cab)*

JEREMY

Anything for a fellow neighbor. You know what I mean?

MARK GETS INTO THE CAB AND JEREMY STARTS DRIVING.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

The names Jeremy, and welcome to my taxi...

MARK TAKES A LOOK AROUND THE CAB THERE'S A BUNCH OF AIR FRESHENERS ALL OVER.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

... Most people call me Taxi Jeremy though.

MARK

But, that's longer then just Jeremy.

JEREMY

Yeah, but's it's way easier.

MARK

How is it easier?

JEREMY

I don't ever have to tell people what I do. Saves a lot of time. You should try it a go someday. What do you do?

MARK

I'm a professor.

JEREMY

Professor Mark. See how easy that is? Now if you had just gone by professor Mark all the time we wouldn't be having this conversation right now. We'd just be creating a strong bond, or something. What are you a professor of?

MARK

Fart history. Ugh! Art History. And Zoology.

JEREMY

Oh cool. I love animals!

MARK

(Looks back to the pier reminiscing of the morning he just had with Dorothy)
...Me too. *(Chuckles to himself)*

JEREMY PULLS A KEY CHAIN OFF OF HIS RING OF KEYS TO SHOW MARK.

JEREMY

Check it out. Lucky rabbits foot. Just in case, you know what I mean?

MARK

Hopefully it's working.

JEREMY

So far, so good, Professor Mark. Has a ring to it don't you think? Professor Mark.

MARK

Yeah it's the bees knees. (*Chuckles to himself quietly*)

JEREMY

Saves a lot of time, eh?

MARK IS REVIEWING HIS NOTE BOOK AND DOESN'T RESPOND TO HIM.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

(*Louder than before*) I said saves a lot of time eh?!

MARK TRIES TO BLOCK HIM OUT AND JUST FOCUS ON HIS NOTES. HE WRITES IN HIS NOTES. "TAXI + JEREMY = NEIGHBOR"

JEREMY (CONT'D)

What... Cat's got you're tongue?

MARK

She did. More than you know. (*Mark Chuckles to himself and winks at his reflection in the window*)

OUT OF NO WHERE JHAVIER WEARING SOME SORT OF SUPER HERO OUTFIT WALKS OUT IN FRONT OF THE CAB; JEREMY TRIES TO STOP BEFORE HITTING THE JHAVIER, BUT JHAVIER GOES FLYING AND ROLLS ACROSS THE ROAD. WE SEE SOME RANDOM FRIEND WHO'S ALSO WEARING A VERY POSH AND WELL PUT TOGETHER SUPER HERO OUTFIT RUNS OUT TO AID JHAVIER.

JEREMY

What the hay! That guy stepped out of
no where you saw that right? I don't
need this heat right now!

JHAVIER

(To Some Random Friend) I'm okay. Did
I do good mister, friend?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND GETS UP FROM HELPING JHAVIER AND LOOKS
INTO THE CAB AT MARK. POINTING AT HIM.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I told you that wasn't the last you'd
see of me. I'm creating an army, Mark.
A full army of sidekicks. Get up
Jhavier!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND PULLS JHAVIER UP OFF THE GROUND.

MARK

Do we really have to do this right
now?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

All you had to do was make me your
sidekick but you choose not to. The
day will com.....

JUST THEN TAXI JEREMY SPEEDS AWAY BLOWING BY JHAIVER AND
SLIGHTLY GRAZING SOME RANDOM FRIEND. AND COMPLETELY RUNNING
OVER A TURTLE THAT WAS CROSSING THE STREET. JEREMY STOPS THE
CAR QUICKLY GETS OUT PICKS UP THE TURTLE AND BUCKLES IT IN ON
THE PASSENGER SEAT UP FRONT.

JEREMY

(To Mark) I hope you don't mind but I really don't need the attention of an accident right now. Makes you feel alive though doesn't it?

MARK

It's for the best. I can't deal with that little fella right now. Thanks.

JEREMY

It's what neighbors are for!

MARK

You know what, I'm starting to take a shine to you. I can't believe we've never ran into each other before.

JEREMY

I'm always working my friend.

JEREMY PULLS UP TO MARKS HOUSE

JEREMY (CONT'D)

MARK GOES TO PULL OUT SOME MONEY BUT THEN REMEMBER HE IS ONLY WEARING A PIZZA BOX AND A COUPLE OF STUFFED CATS. JEREMY SEES HE WAS REACHING FOR HIS MONEY.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it. No need to pony up this time. This one's on me.

MARK

I could actually pony up. *(Mark chuckles to himself)*

JEREMY

We'll go for a beer sometime. I've got to take care of this poor creature.

(Looking at the turtle he ran over)

MARK

Sounds good.

MARK EXITS THE CAB AND CLOSES THE DOOR. HE TURNS BACK AND LOOKS AT JEREMY.

MARK (CONT'D)

Take it easy. *(Long pause)* ... Friend.

JEREMY

You too friend.

JEREMY SMILES AND DRIVES AWAY TO HIS HOUSE NEXT DOOR. EXITS THE CAB. YELLS OVER TO MARK WHO'S TRYING TO MAKE A QUIET WALK OF SHAME INTO HIS HOUSE.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

(Loudly) Hey Neighbor... Good Morning!

(He laughs loudly)

MARK

(Under his breath) Morning Taxi

Jeremy.

CHERYL HEARS ALL THE COMMOTION GOING ON OUTSIDE AND COMES OUT THE FRONT DOOR TO SEE MARK WALKING UP THE PATH WAY WITH ONLY A PIZZA BOX AND A COUPLE OF STUFFED CATS COVERING HIM.

CHERYL

I don't want to hear it.

MARK

(Defeated) I'm sorry.

CHERYL

I already know what you've been up to.

MARK

You do?

CHERYL

Yes, and there's no reason to be sorry
about it. You've made a new friend!!!

CHERYL EMBRACES MARK AND HUGGING HIM IN A WAY WHERE HE CAN'T
MOVE HIS ARMS AT ALL.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

I'm so proud of you. *(She wipes a
smudge of panther fur from his cheek)*
Ooooooh these stuffed cats would be
perfect! For the Street garage sale.
Oh my god. I have so much to do for
the Street garage sale. I'll talk to
you later. Someone called for you and
left a message on the machine.

CHERYL KISSES MARK ON THE CHEEK, SHE PULLS PANTHER HAIRS OUT
OF HER MOUTH AFTER AND THEN GETS INTO THEIR MINI VAN AND
DRIVES AWAY.

MARK

(To himself) Phew that could have been
a lot worse.

MARK WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN AND SEES A NOTE ON THE COUNTER
THAT READS "PHONE CALL FOR YOU, CHECK MESSAGES" HE GOES OVER
TO THE PHONE AND LISTENS TO HIS MESSAGES.

CHERYL (V.O.)

Hey Cheryl, it's you... Cheryl. Just
leaving you this reminder make sure
you go pick up a fanny pack at the
mall for the street garage sale. Okay.

(MORE)

CHERYL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Great. Have fun at the mall Cheryl!

Alright. Ta ta. *(Audible giggles from Cheryl)*

THE MACHINE BEEPS. THE NEXT MESSAGE STARTS PLAYING

SOME RANDOM FRIEND (V.O.)

Hello Mark. I think you know who this is... It's me your worst nightmare the one who will put an end to you and unleash your secret. *(Maniacal laughing)* Yes it is me, Air...

MARK SKIPS AHEAD TO THE NEXT MESSAGE.

CHERYL (V.O.)

Hey Cheryl, it's you again. Don't forget to remind Mark that there is a message for him on this machine. So here's a little reminder. Okay... Talk to you later Cheryl! Okay, bye, bye now. *(Barely able to hear)* Cheryl you are so clever.

PHONE HANGS UP.

MARK

I sure do have a type. *(Mark chuckles to himself)* I'm so tired. I'm just going to take a quick nap. A cat nap. *(Mark chuckles to himself)*

MARK'S SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE HE'S IN AGONIZING PAIN AND HE TURNS INTO THE HOUSE HOLD CAT "PENELOPE" HE TROTS OVER TO THE COUCH AND FALLS ASLEEP.

WE SEE THE FRONT DOOR OPENS AND A CAT BURGLAR WEARING ALL BLACK ENTERS MARK'S HOUSE. THE BURGLAR COMES INTO THE LIVING ROOM AND TAKES MARK AS THE CAT AND STUFFS HIM INTO A BAG. THE BURGLAR EXITS NOT TOUCHING ANYTHING ELSE IN THE HOUSE.

MARK (CONT'D)

(As the cat) Meow?

END OF ACT ONE

INT. - AT THE SHOPPING CENTER - LATE AFTERNOON

CHERYL IS IN THE STORE WRESTLING WITH THE CHOICE OF WHICH FANNY PACK GOES BEST WITH HER COMPLEXION.

CHERYL

(Looking in the mirror) Hmmmmmm. You know, I just don't know. I'm going to have to get them all.

CHERYL LOOKS AT HER WATCH.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Oh my heavens and Bettys. Time really flies when you're having fanny packs. I've got to get home to make Mark dinner before he starves to death!

CHERYL RUNS OUT OF THE STORE FORGETTING TO PAY FOR ALL THE FANNY PACKS SHE'S WEARING. SHE HOPS INTO HER CAR AND SPEEDS AWAY HOME. KNOCKING OVER A SHOPPING CART THAT WAS FULL OF CAT FOOD.

GROCERY STORE PATRON

Ah man. The cat food's out of the bag.

INT. - INSIDE THE BURGLARS HOME - EARLY NIGHT TIME

MARK WHO'S STILL A CAT MANAGES TO SCRATCH A HOLE INTO THE BAG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO SLIP OUT OF. HE CRAWLS OUT AND TAKES A LOOK AT HIS SURROUNDINGS. THE WALLS ARE COVERED WITH PLAQUES AND ALL THESE DIFFERENT STUFFED ANIMAL CREATIONS.

MARK

Meooooooooow....

THERE ARE BEAR/TURKEY SKIN RUGS AND A STUFFED ANTELOPE/PEACOCK/TURTLE STATUES. HE SEES THAT THERE'S A PLAQUE THAT DOESN'T HAVE A HEAD ON IT WITH A NAME TAG THAT READS "DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLD CAT" MARK GULPS AUDIBLY. JUST THEN MARK HEARS THAT SOMEONE IS COMING. HE TRIES TO SCURRY BACK INTO THE BAG BUT HE'S JUST TO LATE.

BURGLAR

Ohhhhhh. It looks as if the cute domestic household cat is out of the bag.

MARK ATTEMPTS TO TURN AROUND TO GET A LOOK AT THE BURGLARS FACE BUT AS HE DOES SO THE BURGLAR PICKS HIM UP. AND TAKES HIM OVER TO THE EMPTY PLAQUE.

BURGLAR (CONT'D)

You're going to make just the perfect little trophy cat. I've been collecting and taxidermy-ing animals for years. Creating my one of a kind creatures. One day I will have one of every kind of animal, mixed with some other kind of animal. You will be my pure little dove. Here will be your place on the wall.

THE MICROWAVE STARTS BUZZING

BURGLAR (CONT'D)

My left overs dinner is ready!

THE BURGLAR PUTS MARK THE CAT DOWN AND RUNS UPSTAIRS TO GET HIS LEFT OVER DINNER. MARKS SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE HE'S IN A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF PAIN AND HE TURNS BACK INTO HIMSELF COMPLETELY NAKED.

MARK

I've got to find some clothes and stop
this lunatic, before it's too late.

MARK RUNS UP THE STAIRS AND HE CAN HEAR THE BURGLAR EATING
HIS MEAL.

BURGLAR

Mmmmmmmmmmm. How do leftovers some how
always taste so much better then the
actual meal!

MARK RUNS TO THE BACK PART OF THE HOUSE.

BURGLAR (CONT'D)

Ah all done my meal. Kitty... I'm
coming back to start our procedure...

THE BURGLAR GOES DOWN STAIRS TO GET THE CAT. MARK TRIES TO
EXIT OUT THE BACK DOOR BUT THERE ARE A BUNCH OF PADLOCKS ON
IT AND HE CAN'T GET IT OPEN.

BURGLAR (CONT'D)

Kitty? Where'd you go? I'm going to
find you...

MARK RUNS PAST THE FRONT HALLWAY TO THE OTHER ROOM WHERE HE
CAN SEE AN OPEN WINDOW. HE STARTS CRAWLING THROUGH THE OPEN
WINDOW FEET FIRST COMPLETELY NAKED. MARK GETS STUCK WHILE
TRYING TO SQUEEZE OUT OF THE WINDOW. HE LOOKS AROUND TO SEE
IF THERE IS ANYTHING HE CAN USE TO GET HIMSELF UNSTUCK. FROM
BEHIND HIM ON THE STREET SOME RANDOM FRIEND APPEARS.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Mark. Now is the time you answer to
me.

MARK

What? Who is that?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Oh, you know exactly who I am.

MARK

Not now!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I'm the man in all of your
nightmares...

MARK

This is my nightmare.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

The one who is causing you all this
havoc. Me and my team of sidekicks are
here to unveil all your secrets to
all.

JHAVIER

Jess, "you are done." Is that the line
I'm supposed to say mister friend?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Yes, but maybe with a bit more
conviction next time.

MARK

Listen, I'm in a bit of a pickle and I
could really use your help right now.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

You need my help?

JHAVIER

I'll help you mister Mark.

JHAVIER GOES OVER AND WITH ALL HIS FORCE PUSHES MARK BACK INTO THE HOUSE.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Jhavier, no! I was going to help him
only if he made me his sidekick!

MARK RUNS OVER TO THE COUCH PULLS UP ALL THE CUSHIONS AND HIDES UNDERNEATH IT.

BURGLAR

I'm getting closer I can hear you
scurrying around. I'm going to get
you. Then stuff you full of fluff.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND GOES UP TO THE WINDOW AND WHISPERS AT MARK, WHEREVER HE IS.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

(Whispering) Make me your sidekick.

MARK

(From under the cushions, whispering)

I told you I don't do sidekicks!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND HEARS THE BURGLARS FOOTSTEPS GETTING CLOSER.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Shoot someone's coming lets boogy!

JHAVIER STARTS DANCING

SOME RANDOM FRIEND (CONT'D)

Not boogy! Run!

JHAVIER

Oh, sorry.

BURGLAR

I don't like this game of cat and
mouse we are playing.

MARK TRIES EVERYTHING IN HIM TO HOLD BACK A CHUCKLE, BUT IT'S
NEAR IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HOLD IT BACK FROM A GOOD PUN. MARK
CHUCKLES OUT LOUD.

BURGLAR (CONT'D)

I can hear you under the couch. That's
it you're mine now.

MARK PEEKS OUT FROM THE COUCH CUSHIONS HE CAN SEE THE
BURGLAR'S LEGS GETTING CLOSER. JUST OFF IN THE DISTANCE IN
THE HALLWAY, HE CAN ALSO SEE A SET OF KEYS WITH A RABBIT'S
FOOT KEY CHAIN. THE BURGLAR RIPS OFF THE COUCH CUSHION.

BURGLAR/JEREMY

Professor Mark?

MARK

Taxi Jeremy?

END OF ACT TWO

EXT. - STREET SIDEWALK - EARLY NIGHT TIME

SOME RANDOM FRIEND AND JHAVIER ARE WALKING ON THE SIDE WALK
IN THEIR WELL PUT TOGETHER SUPER HERO OUTFITS KICKING STONES
ON THE GROUND.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

That was our big moment and we wasted
it! We had him in our clutches!

JHAVIER

Dis sucks big, yes mister friend?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Yeah, this sucks. If only we can get him alone with no one else around we would outnumber him.

JHAIVER SEES THAT A CHIPMUNK HAS BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSE BESIDE HIM.

JHAVIER

Hey, chippy chipmunk.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Don't get to close they can be vicious.

JHAVIER BENDS OVER AND PETS THE CHIPMUNK

JHAVIER

No, he's a nice one.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Wait! That could be Mark!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND SCOOPS UP THE CHIPMUNK AND HOLDS IT REAL CLOSE TO HIS FACE.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND (CONT'D)

(Talking to the chipmunk) Mark! I know it's you. You've been following us to find out where our secret lair is!

CHIPMUNK

Chip... chip, chip.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Nice try! But I'm smarter then that.

THE CHIPMUNK BITES THE TIP OF SOME RANDOM FRIENDS NOSE THEN RUNS OFF UNDER THE GATES OF THE ZOO.

JHAVIER

That chipmunk was cute.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

That was no chipmunk. That was Mark
and I know where he's going to hide.

(To himself) The panther cage.

(Maniacal laughing)

INT. - INSIDE JEREMY'S HOME - EARLY NIGHT TIME

MARK AND JEREMY ARE STANDING OFF STARING AT EACH OTHER FROM
ACROSS THE ROOM. MARK IS STILL COMPLETELY NAKED.

JEREMY

Why are you hiding in my couch Mark?

MARK

Here's a better question for you. Why
do you have all these messed up animal
creatures?

JEREMY

You really think that's a better
question?

MARK

I thought you loved animals?

JEREMY

I do love animals, but I'm making them
better.

MARK

What about your taxi business?

JEREMY

My taxi business is a cover for my true love! Come on man! You couldn't tell! I go by Taxi Jeremy! Taxi Jeremy? Taxi - Deremy. You're not as smart as I thought you were, Professor Mark.

MARK

I'm going to have to take you down!

JEREMY

Good luck my friend.

JEREMY GOES TO SHAKE MARK'S HAND. MARK REACHES OUT TO SHAKE HIS HAND JUST THEN JEREMY TAKES A NEEDLE AND JABS IT INTO MARK'S ARM IT'S A NUMBING AGENT.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

It's a numbing agent. You're not going to feel your arms in a little bit.

MARK

Then I'll start this now!

MARK THROWS A PUNCH WITH ALL HIS FORCE BUT MISSES AND SLIPS ON THE BEAR/TURKEY SKIN RUG FALLING TO THE GROUND. JEREMY STARTS KICKING HIM IN THE RIBS AND ROLLS HIM UP IN THE RUG.

JEREMY

Those arms should start feeling right light by now.

MARK

Not... Just... Yet!

MARK FLEXES AND BREAKS OUT OF THE RUG SPLITTING IT IN HALF.

JEREMY

My Rug!

MARK HIGH KICKS JEREMY IN THE CHEST MAKING HIM FLY BACK ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE HALLWAY WALL WHERE HE SLAMS AGAINST IT. RIGHT BESIDE JEREMY'S FACE IS NOW HIS LUCKY RABBIT KEY CHAIN. HE GRABS IT.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I guess it's my lucky day.

MARK

(Mark Chuckles) That's actually pretty funny. Cause it's a lucky rabbit's foot.

JEREMY

Yeah, that's why I said it!

JEREMY LUNGES AT MARK CUTTING HIS CHEEK WITH THE RABBITS FOOT AND GETTING SEVERAL OTHER BLOWS IN THE MEANTIME. MARK MANAGES TO GET BEHIND JEREMY AND PUSHES HIM TO THE GROUND AND GETS BOTH OF HIS LEGS LOCKED BEHIND HIS HEAD. HE SMASHES HIS ARMS AGAINST THE WALL FORCING HIM TO DROP THE LUCKY RABBIT'S FOOT AND IT FALLS UNDER THE COUCH. JUST THEN CHERYL COMES RACING INTO HER DRIVE WAY, RUNS OUT OF THE CAR WITH IT STILL RUNNING SCREAMING AT MARK, WHILE THE CAR SLOWLY BACKS UP OUT OF THE DRIVE WAY.

CHERYL

Mark! I'm here! Don't die!

SHE RUNS INTO THE HER HOUSE.

MARK

(Confused) Cheryl?

JEREMY

You're wife is here to fight your battles?

MARK

No!

CHERYL RUNS OUT INTO THE BACKYARD OF HER HOUSE. AND DROPS TO HER KNEES SCREAMING AT THE HEAVENS.

CHERYL

He's dead! He starved to death and he vanished cause he was so hungry! He's dust.

JUST THEN SOME RANDOM FRIEND AND JHAVIER COME DOWN THE STREET YELLING IN FRONT OF MARK'S HOUSE WITH DOROTHY THE PANTHER IN THE CAGE.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

(To the panther) Here we are. You're home. Still not willing to change back yet are you? Well I have called the news reporters and they are going to be here any minute and then we will see what happens.

MARK

Dorothy?

JEREMY STILL IN MARKS GRASP.

JEREMY

I need a panther for my collection.

MARK

Oh no you don't! Not her.

JEREMY

You and the panther? This all makes sense now.

(MORE)

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I saw a panther walking towards the zoo yesterday when I picked you up and all the jokes you were making to yourself in the back of the cab. Of course! You have sex with animals!

MARK

I... am... the animal!

MARK KICKS JEREMY AWAY ON THE GROUND. HIS SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE, HE'S IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN AND HE TURNS INTO A PANTHER. JEREMY IS IN SHOCK AT WHAT HE JUST WITNESSED. HE CRAWLS BACK TO THE COUCH TO GRAB THE RABBIT FOOT UNDER THE COUCH. MARK AS A PANTHER GRABS HIS LEG AND PULLS HIM BACK.

JEREMY

You're a man? And an animal?

MARK

MARK AS THE PANTHER NODS. HE THEN TAKES HIS PAW, BRINGS OUT HIS CLAWS AND TAKES IT TO JEREMY'S FACE. JUST HIS LIPS START TO BUBBLE AND HE'S IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN. JUST HIS LIPS ARE HUMAN.

MARK (CONT'D)

A Manimal. And you won't be hurting any more animals.

JUST THEN TWO COPS CARS AND A BUNCH OF NEWS CREW COME RACING UP THE STREET AND PARK IN MARK'S DRIVE WAY.

COP #1

We know you're in there lady! Come out with your hands up and the stolen fanny packs.

MARK AS THE PANTHER PULLS HIS PAW AWAY CUTTING JEREMY'S HAND OFF.

JEREMY

Ahhhhhhh! My hand!!!

MARK

Cheryl!

MARK RUNS OUT OF JEREMY'S HOUSE. CHERYL BEGINS TO WALK OUT FROM THE BACKYARD.

CHERYL

Oh my gosh! I'm so sorry I totally forgot to pay! I wanted to buy them for the huge street garage sale we are having and I had to rush back cause my husband... my husband (*breaks down crying*) He's just dust now and I'll never see him again. (*Crying*)

COP #1

There, there ma'am. It's all going to be okay but you're going to still have to come with me.

MARK COMES RUNNING OUT.

MARK

Wait!

CHERYL

Mark! You're alive...

CHERYL RUNS OVER AND EMBRACES HIM.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

... and you're naked. Now's not the time for that. Hubba hubba!

COP #1

Sir, You're going to have to put on some clothes! Both of you hands up!

MARK

I can't put my hands up! There's a numbing agent in them.

COP #1

I'll shoot!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Wait if that's Mark! then this is just a panther. Ahhhhh Jhaiver, we better get out of here and bring this panther back before anyone notices!

JHAVIER

Yes sir, mister friend.

THEY BOTH RUN OFF WITH THE PANTHER BACK TO THE ZOO.

MARK

Just listen to me for a second!

COP #1

The naked man has something to say!

MARK

There's a man here next door who has been kidnaping animals and making them into his own little creatures through the power of taxidermy.

JEREMY COMES OUT OF HIS FRONT DOOR. HE'S NO LONGER MISSING HIS HAND. HE HAD TAXIDERMIED HIS HAND AND SEWED IT BACK ON. HE'S NOT ACTING THE SAME AS BEFORE HE'S GONE A LITTLE MAD SINCE SEEING MARK TURN INTO AN ANIMAL AND LOSING HIS HAND.

JEREMY

(Laughing to himself) I'm really Taxi
Jeremy now. Taxidermy. Taxidermy on
the run. Jeremy's on the run!
(Laughing, tries to run away)

COP #1

Quick book him boys!

THE COPS RUN OVER AND TACKLE HIM THEN HANDCUFF HIM. THEY TAKE
HIM OVER TO THE COP CAR.

JEREMY

(To the cop) I'm not crazy. That man
(pointing at Mark) can turn into a
panther. He can! I saw it with my own
eyes.

COP #1

Sure you did, wacko. *(To cop #2)* This
guys going to the loony bin.

JEREMY

(To Cop #2) What's your name?

COP #2

It's Pete.

JEREMY

Policeman Pete. It's quicker. *(laughs
real hard)*

COP #2

I like the sounds of that!

THE COP CAR DRIVES AWAY. JEREMY YELLS AT MARK AS THE CAR
DRIVES OFF.

JEREMY

I'll come back and get you Professor
Mark! You'll be my final masterpiece!
I'll get you!

THE CAR DRIVES OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.

COP #1

Sorry about all that. I guess it's
pretty lucky that you ran out of the
store with all those fanny packs, huh?

MARK LOOKS DOWN AT THE GROUND AND JEREMY'S LUCKY RABBIT'S
FOOT IS JUST LAYING THERE ON THE GROUND. MARK PICKS IT UP.

MARK

Yeah, I guess it was really lucky
after all. *(Chuckles to himself.)*

CHERYL

(To Mark) Oh my goodness. You really
never know who's living beside you
these days.

MARK

You can say that again.

CHERYL

Do I have to?

MARK

(Laughs to himself) No. No you
don't...

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

(looking off at all the tv cameras and police cars filling up the street, to himself) Another crime solved by Mark Ward. *(In a whisper)* "The Maniaml"

THE CAMERA PANS OUT ON THE STREET WHERE WE CAN SEE ALL THE FLASHING LIGHTS AND COP CARS AND NEWS CREW AND JHAVIER AND SOME RANDOM FRIEND TAKING THE PANTHER BACK AND CHERYL IS TALKING TO NEW REPORTERS.

END OF ACT THREE

EXT. - OUTSIDE OF MARK'S HOUSE- THE NEXT MORNING EARLY

THERE ARE LOADS OF PEOPLE LOOKING AT ITEMS IN MARK'S DRIVEWAY FOR THE STREET GARAGE SALE.

CHERYL

(To Mark) I guess everyone saw me on the news and just wanted a piece of our stuff. Good thing I have these three fanny packs now. They're all full of money! We should do this every week!

MARK

(Chuckles to himself) Yeah. We should. I'm going to go inside and watch cartoons till the cows come home.
(Chuckles to himself again)

CHERYL

Okay. *(smiles)*

MARK GOES INSIDE. SOME RANDOM FRIEND COMES UP TO CHERYL WITH A NOTEBOOK HE FOUND ON ONE OF THE TABLES. IT'S MARK'S SPECIAL NOTEBOOK WITH ALL THE THINGS HE WRITES ABOUT CRIMES IN IT.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

How much for this tiny no good note
book?

CHERYL

Hmmmm. Ten Cents.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I'll give you five cents.

CHERYL

OK! That will be five cents, please.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND HANDS CHERYL THE FIVE CENTS AND TAKES THE
NOTEBOOK.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

(yelling to Mark inside) Made another
sale! We're going to be rich!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND RUNS TO THE END OF THE DRIVEWAY.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

(To himself) I now have all of Mark's
little investigation secrets. I'll
always be one step ahead of him now.
(Maniacal laughing)

JHAVIER COMES OUT OF NOWHERE AND STARTS LAUGHING AS WELL.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND (CONT'D)

Why are you laughing?!

JHAIVER

It's contagious.

THEY BOTH LAUGH. THE CAMERA ZOOMS OUT TO GET AT PICTURE OF
THE WHOLE TOWN.

END OF EPISODE